GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3578
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2016
Foreign and Regional Languages Broadcast
Hay Prof. Richard;Venugopal Dr. Ponnusamy

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian languages are being broadcast by the BBC, UK, Russia, Sri Lanka, etc. and foreign languages are broadcast from Delhi;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether shifting of regional languages bulletin to respective State capitals will not be a colossal wastage of money after constructing Asia"s largest AIR studio complex recently in Delhi;
(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
(e) whether the move is likely to help the flourishing private radio service in the country and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)

(a) &(b): Yes, Madam. Prasar Bharati has informed that BBC, UK broadcasts its programmes in Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Bangla, Gujarati, Marathi, Punjabi and Telugu. Russia broadcasts programmes in Hindi whereas Sri Lanka broadcasts in Hindi, Tamil, Bangla, Urdu and Punjabi.

The External Services Division of All India Radio, Delhi broadcasts programmes over its short wave transmitters in 15 foreign languages which include French, Russian, Chinese, Swahili, Arabic, Persian, Dari, Pashtu, Sinhala, Baluchi, Burmese, Indonesian, Thai, Tibetan and English.

(c) & (d): Prasar Bharati has informed that the shifting of regional Indian language bulletins from Delhi to respective State capitals shall not involve any additional expenditure. Rather it is a virtual shift with a change of place of production of bulletins only. The proposed shift will also not make any difference to listeners of AIR. The studios vacated will be suitably utilised.

(e): No, Madam.
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